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STORY
ROB LIEFELD

SCRIPT / LAYOUTS
JIM VALENTINO

PENCILS
ANDY PARK
PAT LEE

INKS
SEAN PARSONS
MARLO ALQUIZA

INK ASSISTS
ALAN MARTINEZ
KYLE ROBERTS

COLORS
CHRISTIAN LICHTNER

COLOR SEPARATIONS
EXTREME COLOR

LETTERING
STEVE DUTRO

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
BRENT BRAUN

EDITOR
ERIC STEPHENSON

ANGELA CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE
& NEIL GAIMAN

GLORY CREATED BY
ROB LIEFELD

CELESTINE CREATED BY
ALAN MOORE

STORY SO FAR

For one hundred thousand years the angel **Angela** served heaven as a fearless hunter and messenger. In recent times, she was accused of a crime she didn't commit and put on trial in the magnificent angel city of **Elysium**. With the aid of Al Simmons, AKA **Spawn**, Angela ultimately proved her innocence, but as a result of the trail she decided to become a freelance operative. She has since wandered the universe as an "ex-angel for hire."

Born long ago on the **Isle of Paradise**, Amazonia, **Gloriana Demeter** is the heir to the throne of that mystic land and princess of the Amazonian people. The product of a mating between the demonic **Lord Silverfall** and the beautiful **Lady Demeter**, Glory's hybrid nature has made her both a skilled and ferocious warrior. At home in neither of her parent's dimensions, **Glory** fled to the world of man and has since become one of earth's greatest heroines.

Brought into an uneasy alliance to fight the threat of **Celestine** - a warrior angel driven mad upon her resurrection at the hands of her faithful servents - they were able to defeat her only with the help of the earth's Maximage, but not before discovering her soul had been taken over by the demon - **Malebogia**.

Now the queen of the angels herself, has asked these two warriors to brave the depths of hell to rescue the soul of she who would have destroyed them both.

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CHERI LIEFELD

PROMOTIONS & MARKETING
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FOR IMAGE COMICS

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CHAPTER 1
ANGELS IN HELL
IT WAS SOMETHING STRAIGHT OUT OF DANTE. WE CAME THROUGH A DARK FOREST, OUT OF A VALLEY AND ONTO A MOUNTAIN, TOUR GUIDED BY
NEITHER LEOPARD NOR LION OR EVEN LYKANTHROPE BARRED OUR WAY.
I GUESS THAT WAS BECAUSE OF MY TRAVELING COMPANION.
...HER NAME IS ANGELA.
SHE'S AN ANGEL.
YOU READY?
YES.
GOOD. BUT REMEMBER THIS, GLORY...
'ABANDON HOPE ALL YE WHO ENTER HERE
...IF YOU FALTER ANYWHERE IN THIS EVIL PLACE...
...YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN. I HAVE A MISSION TO COMPLETE.
BUT SHE'S LIKE NO ANGEL YOU'VE EVER HEARD ABOUT.
VIOLENT... BLOODTHIRSTY... SHE'S A WARRIOR.

WE WALK DOWN INTO A PIT THAT WELCOMES NO LIGHT.
THE ONLY THING TO PENETRATE THE DARKNESS ARE THE SCREAMS OF THE DAMNED.
MY COMPANION WALKS WITHOUT TREPIDATION OR HESITATION.
TRYING TO BLOCK OUT THE CACOPHONY MY THOUGHTS TURN TO HOW THIS ALL BEGAN.
...THERE WAS AN ANGEL NAMED CELESTINE...
...WHOSE HEART WAS TORN FROM HER BREAST BY THE DEMON VIOLATOR.*
*VIOLATOR VS. BADROCK #2. --E.S.
SHE WAS RESURRECTED BY TWO WELL-MEANING [illegible]
...BUT SOMETHING WENT WRONG. SHE WAS EVIL...
...AND WITH AN ARMY OF FOLLOWERS, SHE PLUNDERED HEAVEN!
...OR SO WE THOUGHT!
BUT CELESTINE SOON BROUGHT BACK THE ANGEL'S SATELLITE...
...AND THERE STOLE THE ELEMENTAL FIRE!*
*YOUNGBLOOD #6. --E
IT WAS THEN THAT WE JOINED FORCES WITH THE EARTH'S PROTECTOR, AMAZIMAGE.*
*TEAM YOUNGBLOOD #21. --ERIC

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SEEKING TO CONTROL THE POWER OF MAGIC TO USURP GOD HIMSELF...
...SHE JOURNEYED TO THE ISLE OF PARADISE AND FREED MY SISTER AMAZONIANA...
...WHICH IS WHERE ANGELA AND I MET AND FORGED AN UNEASY ALLIANCE.
USING THE ELEMENTAL POWERS THAT ARE MY BIRTHRIGHT, I DEFEATED HER.*
*ALL FROM ANGELA/GLORY #1.--ERIC
BUT WE WERE TOO LATE! SHE USED THE ELEMENTAL FIRE TO RESURRECT THE DEAD...
...AND SENT AN ARMY OF SOLDIERS FROM EVERY ERA TO BATTLE US.
IT WAS ONLY AFTER DEFEATING THEM THAT WE DISCOVERED HER BODY HAD BEEN USURPED...
...BY THE EVIL MALEBOGIA, RULER OF THE EIGHTH CIRCLE...
*MAXIMAGE #4.--ERIC AGAIN
AND SO IT WAS THAT METATRON, QUEEN OF THE ANGELS, ASKED US TO RESCUE [illegible]
...FROM THE VERY BOWELS OF HELL...
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I READ THE DIVINE COMEDY...
...BUT I REMEMBER WELL HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE OVERWHELMING STENCH OF THIS [illegible]
...AND THE DEAFENING PEAL, LIKE THUNDER, OF THE [illegible]
THEY ARE EVEN MORE HORRIFIC THAN HE [illegible]
BUT I WILL NOT LET FEAR OR NAUSEA [illegible]
...AFTER ALL, I WALK WITH AN ANGEL!

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AND SHE FEARS NOTHING...
LEAST OF ALL, THIS INFERNO!
WE ARRIVE AT THE VESTIBULE, A DARKENED, STARKASS PLACE A TERRIBLE PLACE... NONE OF
MY HEART GOES OUT TO THESE POOR WRETCHES WHO LIVED ONLY FOR
...AND MUST NOW FACE ETERNITY RUNNING IN CIRCLES, WITH WASPS AND BEES, IN STINGING
MY COMPANION REMORES THE THUNDER OF THEIR CRIES... I PRAY TO ALL THAT IS HOLY THAT I
HER MIND IS FIXED AHEAD AND JUST BELOW US ON A STREAM CALLED
...AND THE BOATMAN CHARON, WHO FERRYS THE LOST SOULS ACROSS IT...
BOATMAN! WE DEMAND PASSAGE...
...TO THE LEVELS BELOW!
PASSAGE DENIED!
THOU WALKEST WITH THE LIVING!
AND NONE WHO LIVE MAY PASS!
GO YE BACK AND FORSAKETH THIS PLACE OF THE FORSAKEN!

WE WERE SENT HERE BY HEAVEN!
IN THE NAME OF GOD!
YOU WILL GIVE US PASSAGE!
HGGH...
OWWW...
Y...YES...
...NO...MORE...
...PLEASE...
WHAT WAS UP WITH THAT?
OH?
HOLY NAMES ARE ANATHEMA TO THIS PLACE.
THEY HAVE FORFEITED THE RIGHT TO INVOKE THEM.
AND HEARING THEM CAUSES PAIN?
LIGHT ALWAYS STABS THROUGH THE DARKNESS, DOESN'T IT?
THIS MUST BE LIMBO, THE FIRST CIRCLE. IT'S BEAUTIFUL!
YES. THE CIRCLE OF THE VIRTUOUS UNBAPTIZED...
...THOSE WHO LED GOOD LIVES, BUT LIVED BEFORE THE COMING.
IT'S A SAD PLACE... AND SO UNJUST.
OURS IS NOT TO QUESTION, GLORY.
HURRY, BEFORE THE MELANCHOLY OVERWHELMS YOU.
WE MUST PASS THE CASTLE OF SEVEN GATES.
A PALACE OF PEACE AMID THE CHAOS.
YEAH.
IRC.CYBERTONIUM.NET #COMIC-COMIC

WE WALKED THROUGH THE SEVEN GATES AND ON TO THE GREEN MEADOW BEYOND, WHERE...
MY GOD! WHAT IS IT?
AND WHAT IS THAT SOUND?
THUNDER?
IT'S THE SOUND OF ALL THE DAMNED SOULS OF HELL HEARD AS ONE!
AND GOD HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
STILL, FROM HERE WE CAN AVOID SOME OF THE LESSER CIRCLES...
...BY LEAPING RIGHT PAST THEM!
THE CIRCLES OF LUST, GLUTTONY, AND THE AVARICIOUS.
YOU'VE READ DANTE, THEN?
GOOD! ARE YOU READY TO JUMP INTO THE ABYSS?
THOUGH A DREADED FEAR THREATENED TO SUFFOCATE ME IN ITS BLACK SHROUD, I SWALLOWED MY HEART AND I JUMPED.
AHEAD LAY TWO PILLARS OF FIRE.
DIS?
YES, HOME OF THE FURIES.
WILL THEY TRY TO STOP US?
NO. BUT KEEP YOUR EYES AVERTED FROM THEM...
...LEST THEY TURN YOU TO STONE!
I HATE THIS PLACE.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO.

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IT IS HERE WE WILL FIND CELESTINE'S SOUL. IN THIS CIRCLE OF THE HERETICS.
KEEP YOUR EYES COVERED, GLORY!
FURIES! LET US PASS!
SHE LIVES! SHE CANNOT PASS HERE! THE LIVING MAY NEVER ENTER DIS!
ONE DID!
AYE, LONG LONG AGO. AN ANGEL BOUGHT HIS PASSAGE.
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM?
SHALL I INVOKE THE HOLY NAMES?
NAY! LET THEM PASS, MY SISTERS! LET THEM PASS!
THIS PLACE... ALL THIS FOG... AND THE STENCH!
SOULS ARE BURNING, GLORIANNA. STAY BY ME, THAT YOU DON'T LOSE YOUR WAY.
HOW WILL WE FIND HER?
WE WILL. IS YOUR SWORD AT THE READY?
YES, WHY?
BECAUSE...

..WE'VE GOT COMPANY!
WHO ARE THEY?
MY GUESS? THE VIOLENT!
CHAPTER 2
THE FIRE DOWN BELOW

THE VIOLENT? BUT THAT CAN'T BE! WE'RE ON LEVEL SIX...
THE VIOLENT ARE FROM LEVEL SEVEN, AREN'T THEY?
YES. WHICH BEGGARS THE QUESTION HOW DID THEY GET UP HERE?!
A COUP, PERHAPS?
THAT MAKES SENSE TO ME...
...AFTER ALL, IF IT CAN HAPPEN IN HEAVEN--
THEN THERE'S NO REASON TO THINK IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE AS WELL!

MY, MY, MY, HOW VERY PERCEPTIVE OF YOU, LADIES!
NOT EVEN THE BIG MAN HIMSELF HAS FIGURED IT OUT...
...YET HERE YOU COME, TESTOSTERONE DRIPPING FROM YOUR SWORDS, AND YOU GET IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME!
YOUR INVOCATIONS WON'T WORK ON ME, DEARIE...
...I'M THE KING OF THE EIGHTH REALM. SECOND TO ONLY LUCIFER HIMSELF...
WHO?
MALEBOGIA! I WANT CELESTINE'S SOUL..
NOW!
OH, AND I'LL JUST BET YOU DO!
AND LOOK AT YOU-- A LITTLE FIRE FROM... WELL, YOU KNOW...
HEAVEN!
YES, QUAINT PLACE, ISN'T IT?
...SOON TO BE FIRST!

AND THE LIKES OF YOU WILL NOT RUIN MY PLAN!
I'VE ONLY GOT THREE WORDS FOR YOU, MALEBOGIA!
GO
TO
HELL!
SORRY, ALREADY THERE! NICE THROW, THOUGH.
GLORY, HELP!
I'M TRYING! BUT MY SWORD DOESN'T SEEM TO BE HAVING ANY EFFECT ON HIM!
AND WHAT DID YOU EXPECT, MY DEAR?

THIS IS AFTER ALL, MY REALM!
I'M OMNIPOTENT HERE!
AND YOU AND YOUR LITTLE MORTAL FRIEND HERE ARE NO MORE THAN...
...JUICY MORSELS!
PERHAPS, DEMON, BUT NOT FOR YOUR PUTRESCENT PALATE.
WHA--?
YOU?

DID YOU TRULY THINK THAT YOU COULD PULL OFF A COUP D'ÉTAT?
DID YOU THINK THAT YOU COULD ASSUME CONTROL OF AN ENTIRE CIRCLE OTHER THAN YOUR OWN?
AND ATTEMPT TO EXERT YOUR INFLUENCE OVER A THIRD...
...WITHOUT MY BEING AWARE OF IT?
BUT, BOSS, I WASN'T...
IS THAT?
UH-HUH, LUCIFER HIMSELF!
PLEASE, LADIES, CALL ME LOU.
AND AS FOR YOU, MAL--

AS FOR ME-- NOTHING!
TASTE THE POWER THAT IS MINE TO COMMAND!
VERY WELL, IF YOU INSIST.
I AM THE RULER OF THE EIGHTH LEVEL!
THE GREAT AND POWERFUL
MALEBOLGIA!
DO TELL. AND THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE?
AARRGH! I'LL RIP YOUR HEART OUT FOR THAT!
OH, PLEASE. I HAVE NO HEART! DO YOU FORGET WHOM YOU'RE ADDRESSING?
I AM THE FIRST OF THE ANGELS...
...THE CREATOR OF HELL!

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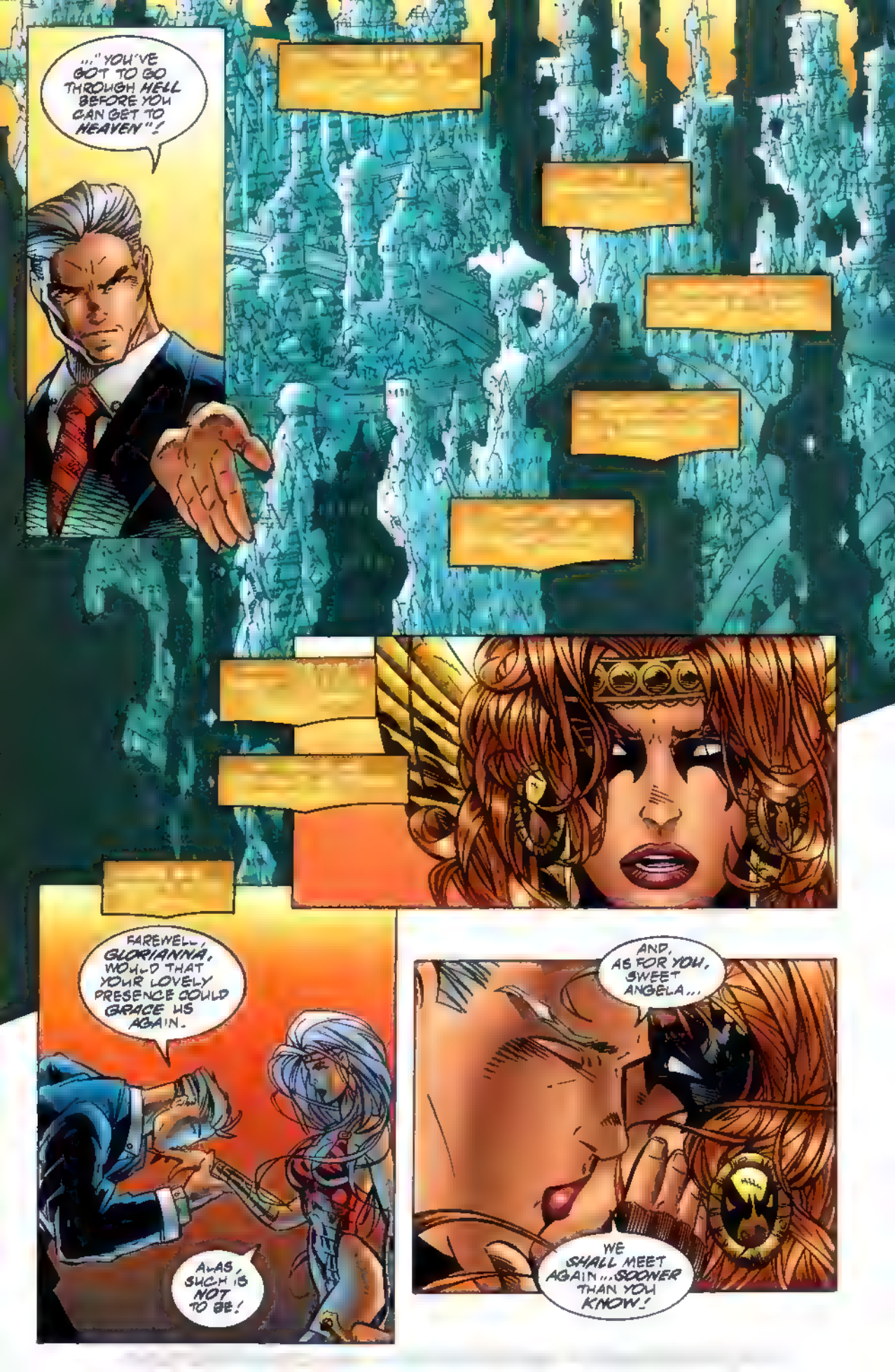
CHAPTER 3
THE 10TH CIRCLE
AH, WELL THAT TAKES CARE OF THAT BIT OF UNPLEASANTNESS, EH LADIES?
YOU DESTROYED HIM?
OH, NO, MY DEAR. HE'S STILL QUITE USEFUL TO ME...
...EVEN IF HE IS A TAD TOO AMBITIOUS FOR HIS OWN GOOD!
I SENT HIM BACK TO THE EIGHTH CIRCLE, UNTIL I DECIDE HOW TO PUNISH HIM FOR THIS...
...PERHAPS A MILLENNIA OR TWO OF WATCHING LESSER DEMONS CONSUME HIS ENTRAILS WILL--
EXCUSE ME, MY LORD.
HMM? OH YES, ANGELA...
PLEASE, FORGIVE MY REVERIE...
...YOU STILL HAVE A PROBLEM, DON'T YOU?
WE HAVE COME FOR MY SISTER'S SOUL MY LORD.
YES, QUITE...
...AND WHAT, PRAY TELL, WILL YOU GIVE ME IN RETURN?
WHATEVER YOU WANT.
WHATEVER I WANT...
...I RATHER LIKE THAT PHILOSOPHY.

SO TELL ME, ANGELA, FIRST FREELANCE OPERATIVE OF ELYSIUM, WOULD YOU EXCHANGE YOUR SOUL FOR HERS?
IF I MUST.
VERY NOBLE.
OF COURSE, I WOULD REQUIRE A PURER SOUL THAN YOURS...
...SUCH AS YOURS, GLORIANNA!
WHAT?
WOULD YOU TAKE HER PLACE IN HELL?
I... I...
YOU HESITATE.
I... WOULD.
AH! A TRUE HERO! SELF-SACRIFICE AND ALL THAT ROT!
BUT NO. TAKING YOUR SOUL WOULD CAUSE ME NO END OF GRIEF FROM UPSTAIRS...
...YOURS IS NOT THE BARTER I NEED.
CELESTINE!
OHHH...
BY THE SAINTS!
YOUR FRIEND IS RETURNED, WITH MY COMPLIMENTS TO METATRON.
NOW, LADIES, IF YOU'LL PLEASE FOLLOW ME.
WHERE?
WHY, THIS WAY, OF COURSE! SILLY GIRL!

WELCOME TO MY HUMBLE ABODE!
YOU LIVE HERE?
YES, OF COURSE!
THIS IS NOT WHAT I EXPECTED!
I NEVER IS!
ANGELA JUST SEEMED TO TAKE IT ALL IN STRIDE.
SHE'S AN ANGEL, MAYBE SHE KNEW. BUT AS FOR ME, I WAS STRUCK SPEECHLESS!
MIGHT I INTEREST YOU GIRLS IN A DRINK BEFORE YOU LEAVE? A GLASS OF SHERRY? A BRANDY OR COGNAC, PERHAPS? WE, OF COURSE, HAVE THEM ALL!
N...NO.
YOU'RE STILL IN SHOCK, AREN'T YOU?
WE.L...
WELL, THEN TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE, GLORY... DANTE GOT IT WRONG! THERE ARE NOT NINE LEVELS TO HELL...
...THERE ARE, IN FACT, TEN!
WHAT?
HE LAUGHED AND WALKED OVER TO TWO HUGE DOORS.
I SHOULDERED MY SWORD, PREPARED FOR ANYTHING...
...EXCEPT SUNLIGHT.
YES WELL, YOU DO KNOW THE OLD ADAGE, DON'T YOU...


..." YOU'VE GOT TO GO THROUGH HELL BEFORE YOU CAN GET TO HEAVEN"!
FAREWELL, GLORIANNA. WOULD THAT YOUR LOVELY PRESENCE COULD GRACE US AGAIN.
ALAS, SUCH IS NOT TO BE!
AND, AS FOR YOU, SWEET ANGELA...
WE SHALL MEET AGAIN...SOONER THAN YOU KNOW!

NO SOONER HAD WE ENTERED THE CRYSTAL CITY THAN TWO ANGELS TOOK FROM US OUR CHARGE...
...PRESUMABLY TO REUNITE HER SOUL WITH HER BODY.
WE WERE THEN APPROACHED BY A BEAUTIFUL BLACK ANGEL...
METATRON!
IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU, METATRON, I LIKE BEING FREELANCE.
IF THAT IS WHAT YOU WISH.
IT IS.
AND YOU, GLORY? YOU WOULD MAKE A WONDERFUL ANGEL. ARE YOU PREPARED TO JOIN US HERE IN ELYSIUM?
YOU HAVE DONE WELL, ANGELA...
...EVEN AS WE KNEW YOU WOULD.
WE ARE PREPARED TO GRANT YOU FULL ACQUITTAL...
...IF YOU ARE PREPARED TO COME HOME.
AND CELESTINE?
ALAS, SHE MAY NEVER FORGIVE YOU.
ME? JOIN YOU?
FOR THE SECOND TIME IN LESS THAN AN HOUR I AM ASKED A QUESTION THAT SHOCKS ME...

...RIGHT DOWN TO MY SOUL!
UH,,, NO. I THINK I STILL BELONG ON EARTH.
THEN THAT IS WHERE YOU SHALL BE...
...BOTH OF YOU!
WHAT?
AND IN LESS TIME THAN IT TOOK THE WORDS TO FORM...
...THAT'S WHERE WE WERE... BOTH OF US!
EARTH! AFTER THE GRANDEUR OF ELYSIUM IT'S ALMOST AS PUTRID AS HELL!
IT'S NOT SO BAD, NOT REALLY. ONCE YOU GET USED TO MORTALS THEY'RE QUITE ENDEARING...
...ESPECIALLY THE MEN!
BAH! YOU CAN HAVE THEM!
YOU DON'T LIKE MEN?
ONLY AS A MOMENTARY DIVERSION.

ANGELA, I'M CURIOUS... WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BE ACQUITTED OF? AND WHY WON'T CELESTINE FORGIVE YOU?
SHE CONSIDERS ME A SEDITIONIST.
IT'S A LONG STORY. LET'S JUST SAY THERE WERE A NUMBER OF TRUMPED UP CHARGES...
...TREASON, LARCENY, CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE, HUNTING WITHOUT A PERMIT...
...I WAS FRAMED*, AND CELESTINE WILL NEVER FORGIVE ME FOR BEING CHARGED!
*SEE THE ANGELA TPB. -- ERIC
BUT, DIDN'T SHE HERSELF JUST ATTEMPT A COUP?
BUT YOU WERE INNOCENT!
THAT'S DIFFERENT. SHE WAS POSSESSED BY MALEBOGIA.
YEAH...
...FUNNY HOW THAT WORKS, ISN'T IT?

WELL, LOOK, I'VE GOT A GIG ON S! PEGABI...
...YOU DID ALL RIGHT, GLORY...
...THE NEXT TIME WE MEET IT WILL BE AS FRIENDS! TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!
GOOD-BYE, ANGELA...
...GOD BLESS.
HE ALREADY HAS, BABE, HE ALREADY HAS!
...THE DAY I WALKED THROUGH HEAVEN AND HELL WITH AN ANGEL BY MY SIDE!
I AM PRINCESS GLORIANNA DEMETER, HEIR TO THE THRONES OF THE AMAZONIA AND THE DEMON SILVERFALL. I HAVE SEEN MANY WONDROUS AND GLORIOUS THINGS IN MY LONG LIFE...
...BUT I SHALL NEVER FORGET THIS DAY FOR AS LONG AS I YET MAY LIVE.
THE END